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### Governor Barbour Appoints Leslie S. Lee To Head New Office of Indigent Appeals

(Jackson, Mississippi -- Governor Haley Barbour has named Leslie S. Lee of Brandon, an experienced prosecutor and Army Reserve officer, to a four-year term as director of the Mississippi Office of Indigent Appeals.

In the new position, created by the Legislature in 2005, Lee will lead a staff of six attorneys, two secretaries/paralegals and a financial assistant in providing representation on appeal for indigent persons who have been convicted of felonies but are not under sentence of death.

“Leslie has extraordinary credentials in this very specialized field,” Governor Barbour said. “While much of her experience has been on the prosecutorial side of the law, she is very aware of the need to speed up appeals while preserving the constitutional rights of defendants. I know she will do an excellent job.”

Lee, 44, has extensive experience as a special assistant attorney general, currently serving as executive director of the Prosecutors Training Division, where she coordinates training of prosecutors in all state, county, municipal and youth courts in Mississippi. In other positions with the Attorney General’s office, she has handled death penalty appeals for the state and prosecutions for the Consumer Protection and Medicaid Fraud Control units.

She holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve with Team 7 of the 213th Legal Support Organization, headquartered in Jackson. She has also served in a variety of staff judge advocate-related positions both on active and Reserve duty.

Lee earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Mississippi in 1983 and her juris doctor degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1986.

She and her husband, Joe, have a son and the family lives in Brandon.

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